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CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 22, 2014

TO: Chair Cole and members of the Natural Resources Board

FROM: Rob Bohmann, WCC Chair

SUBJECT: Congress Matters: Wisconsin Conservation Congress 2014 Spring Hearing Advisory Questions

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress Executive Council met on January 10-11, 2014 in Rothschild to receive study committee reports and recommendations, review department proposed rule changes, and consider advanced citizen resolutions for possible inclusion in the DNR and WCC Annual Spring Hearing questionnaire.

First, I'd like to recognize and thank Jane Wiley for her presence at the meeting. We would like to acknowledge your continuing interest in our organization and reiterate our appreciation to all the members of the Natural Resources Board for your ongoing support.

Each year, at the January board meeting, the Conservation Congress presents the advisory questions which we have developed for the Spring Meeting's questionnaire. These questions are the culmination of a year's worth of work by our delegates, our committees, and ultimately by our Executive Council. We would like to thank Tom Hauge, Mike Staggs, Todd Schaller, and their staff members for the time that they all put in to participate in this process.

The Congress Executive Council advanced 23 advisory questions to the Annual Spring Meeting for citizens to weigh in on. You have copies of them all in the green sheet, but I would just like to highlight a few of them for you today.

Questions 1 and 2, Provide additional deer registration process opportunities and white deer protection, respectively. These two questions will allow spring hearing attendees an additional opportunity to provide input on two items that the DNR is currently considering as part of the implementation of the Deer Trustee Report.

With questions 3 and 4, the Environmental Committee is seeking input from the public about options to help prevent the spread of terrestrial invasive plants and establishing an educational program for recycling lead at shooting ranges.

The Fur Harvest Committee is would like feedback on the possible elimination of trapping hour restrictions, trapper education requirements for farm operators trapping in areas other than their farms, and the creation of a trapping mentorship program.

Question 11, from the Migratory Committee, will ask attendees about the possibility of a two hen daily bag limit for mallards when offered by the USFWS.

Finally, the Executive Council elected to place three questions on the questionnaire asking the public for input on the issue of the creation of a tundra swan season, as well as options to streamline the transferring of licenses or permits.